

Submitted By: Suzanne Healy

February 18th, 2016

Senator Bye, Representative Walker and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee

My name is Suzanne Healy from Bethel. I have an adult handicap child living at home with me.

She is a wonderful social individual. Unfortunately due to multiple cognitive and physical deficits she is unable to live independently and unemployable. However because of state funded programs through the DDS Department of Developmental Disabilities she receives the support she needs in her daily life. She is transported to Ability Beyond 5 days a week for 6 hours each day. The staff is well trained and very committed to the experience of each individual in the day program. I am able to continue my own employment as a nurse at Danbury Hospital. When my daughter comes home she is assisted by an in-home support person 12 hours a week also through funding from DDS. This staff person can take her to medical appointments and assist with personal care activities. As you can see these services are vital in allowing me to continue taking care of my disabled daughter at home. Proposed funding cuts to these programs will have devastating consequences to families like mine.

Please do not allow these cuts to the DDS programs. For families like mine there is no alternative.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, or for additional information.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Healy

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